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Capital Planning Minutes 02-17-2000

FEBRUARY 17, 2001

- * Charles T. Foskett, Chairman
- * John F. Britt
- * Nancy T. Galkowski
- * Anthony T. Lionetta
- John Bilafer
- * John FitzMaurice
- A. L. Minervini
- * Barbara Thornton
- * Steve Andrews

Park Circle Fire Station: The meeting was spent discussing matters of the Park Circle Station Building. Fire Director Richard Maimone attended with Engineering and Architectural Consultants. Together they made presentations concerning short term and long term issues at the Station. Also in attendance was Don Marquis.

Short Term Issues: There are structural problems with the first floor system supporting the vehicle garage area. The Consultant reported that the floor has undergone degradation from water/road salt intrusion (observed by the structural engineering consultant on this date). The floor is comprised of reinforced concrete one-way slab supported by reinforced concrete beams. Over the years, the water/road salt from tires has penetrated the slab and weakened it. Recommendations were made to provide additional supports as a precautionary measure. While not critical, implementation within the next 6 months is advised as prudent. The initial thoughts are to install support columns, with steel seating plates, in the basement to support the floor beams. Steel plates may also be laid on the first floor to help distribute vehicle loads. The approach will be refined following the performance of design computations.

Implementation of Short Term Measures: The cost of short-term temporary measures is estimated to be in the range of \$20,000 to \$30,000. There are funds available from Prior Year Requests of the Fire Department to cover this work. There was agreement to move forward with these measures as soon as possible. The Consultant estimates that these measures would be OK for a couple of years with proper monitoring.

Long Term Actions: Decisions need to be made relative to long-term actions at the Park Circle Station. Rehabilitation of the Station is estimated to cost about \$900,000, while replacement is estimated to be \$1,200,000. However, along with this, there is a question on whether the Station is still needed. The balance of the meeting was spent discussing the merits of having the Station.

Station Justifications: Director Maimone presented information on the usage and function of the Station. A fair amount of meeting time was spent on impacts to response times without the Station. Also included in the analysis was the repositioning of the Rescue truck from the Highland Station to Headquarters. This is proposed as an outcome to closing the Park Circle Station and reassigning Engine 3 from the Park Circle Station to the Highland Station (in that there is not enough room to store the Rescue and Engine 3 at Highland). The Highland Station would service the Park Circle Station service area. Maps of response times were presented for both fire apparatus and rescue vehicles with and without the Park Circle Station. The Director stressed his concern for safety, if the Station at Park Circle Station was not there and, if the Rescue were moved to Headquarters.

Response Times: The CPC had several questions and issues relative to the response time statistics presented. While response times within the Park Circle Station Services area would increase without the Station, the resulting times do not appear (from information provided), to be any worse than those in other parts of Town. The CPC requested information on standards or response times in neighboring communities. This information would be helpful as benchmarks for evaluating the situation. Fire Director agreed to provide.

Given that through the discussion some questions arose on the analytical development of the response times presented, the CPC requested the availability of real data. Performing trial runs is not recommended given that they would needlessly present dangers to the public and firefighters. The Director indicated that this information might be available or obtainable from runs made when Engine 3 is out of service, or when second calls are run by the Highland Station. Fire Director agreed to provide.

Other Concepts: The CPC questioned whether other things could be done to offset the need or impact of not having a Park Circle Station. Such ideas, as different equipment or a larger facility at Highland were raised by the CPC. There was general agreement that more discussion and information was needed before the CPC could render a recommendation.

Initiation of Design: The notion of getting started on the design process was raised. The proposal included taking funds from present requests already made by the Fire Services. The CPC stated its position that this was premature. Also noted was that the temporary measures discussed were felt to be okay for two plus years, if monitoring were done.

Next Meeting: The next meeting was rescheduled to Tuesday, February 29th at 4:00 P.M. Many other items on the Agenda need to be discussed.